**Criteria for Import of Petro Products and Natural Gas**

†3034. SHRI ANANTRAYDEVSHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATUR.\L GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions on which permission is being granted by Government to import petroleum products and natural gas in the country;

(b) whether government are providing any financial assistance to the companies importing said products;

(c) if so, the conditions on which above assistance being provided to the companies; and

(d) what are the criterion under which permission has been granted by Government to these companies for selling the said products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Import of controlled petroleum products are made by Indian Oil Corporation as canalising agency keeping the demand and supply position as also the economics of import in view. Such import is made as per the provision of Oil Economy Budget (OEB) finalised in the beginning of each financial year. Import of decontrolled products is made on market consideration by public sector and private companies. The conditions of import are stipulated in theEXIM policy. Import of Natural Gas/Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) is on Open General List.

(b) and (c) No financial assistance is being provided by the Government to the companies for their imports of petroleum products and natural gas.

(d) At present Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) arc allowed to be marketed by public sector oil companies only. Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG), Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) etc. are allowed to be marketed by private companies also under parallel marketing scheme. Also private parties are allowed to market most of the remaining products.

**Production of crude by ONGC**

3035. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that production of crude by the ONGC has not improved;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of crude production for the last three years and the steps taken to improve production;

(c) whether any decision taken to handover certain oil fields of Bombay High to private sector; and

(d) if so, the details and the expectation of crude production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the crude oil production trends of ONGC, whose details for the last three years arc given below;

*(Jigs, in MMT)*

| Year | Crude oil production |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 28.250 |
| 1998-99 | 26.387 |
| 1999-2000* | 24.706 |

*provisional

Various measures undertaken to increase the production of crude oil are:

(i) Drilling of infill wells, horizontal wells and extended reach drilling wells.

(ii) adoption of drain hole technology and scale removal jobs.

(iii) Re-completion of poorly producing wells side tracking.

(iv) Workover jobs, redistribution of water injection to maintain reservoir pressure and optimisation of gas lift facilities.

(v) Hiring of consultants of international repute for formulation of re-development plan of Mumbai High field

(vi) Acquisition of 3-D seismic data for better understanding of the reservoir for future development plans.

(vii) Trial of new tachnology "Gel Technology" in Mumbai High field for control of excessive gas and water production.

(viii) Improvement in recovery factor.

(ix) Faster development of new discoveries.

(x) Induction of asvanced and cost effective technologies.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

3036. *[Withdrawn]*

**Tampering of Seal in LPG Cylinders**

3037. SHRl ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in Delhi a large scale theft of gas from the LPG cylinders takes place by tampering its seal before delivering it to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to control the meance;

(c) whether Government would introduce a new fool proof seal system instead of present seal in the cylinders, which is tamper prone, so as to avoid further tampering by the agencies/suppliers and ensuring the prescribed quantity of LPG is supplied to the consumers; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No case of large scale theft of gas from the LPG c\'linders by tampering of seals before delivery has been reported by Public Sector Oil Companies with regard to their LPG distributors in Delhi. However, regular check of the LPG distributors is carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different le\'els. ff any distributor is found indulging in any malpractice/irregularity, action is initiated against such distributor for the established malpractice/irregularity, depending upon its nature, as per the Agreement etc.

(c) & (d) The improvement in sealing of LPG cylinders is a continuous process and oil companies take necessary steps for the further development of the sealing equipment in their research centers from time to time.